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# Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Plumbago zeylanica L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

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**Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Plumbago zeylanica L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." *Indian Medicinal Plants*. (1918)].**

## Pankaj Oudhia

### Introduction

**Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit [pankajoudhia.com](http://pankajoudhia.com)**

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

712. *Plumbago zeylanica*, Linn., H.F.B.I., III.

480 ; Rosb. 155.

Sans. : — Agni-shikha, Chitraka. (Also Vahni , and all the other names of fire. Roxburgh).

Vern. : — Chitra, chita, chitarak (Hind.); Chitu (Beng.) ;

Shitaraj (Arab.) ; Shitaruk (Pers.) ; Chatrmul, Chitrakmul, (Dec.) ;

Venchittira (Tarn.) ; Tella-chitra (Tel.); Kotuveli (Mat); Sudu-

nitul (Cingh.) ; Kn-khen-pbfu (Burm.) ; Chitrak (Bom).

Habitat : — Cultivated, and wild throughout India. Common in Bengal, South India, and Kumaun hills.

An evergreen perennial herb, or undershrub, diffuse, rambling. Stems several, 2-5ffc., eylindric, glabrous striate. Root long, succulent, often much contorted, substantial, diffuse, straited longitudinally, 4-5ft. long, procumbent branches, on reaching the soil, often strike root. Leaves alternate, exstipulate, entire sessile, 1|-3Jin. long, lin. broad, ovate. Petiole fin., base dilated, amplexicaul. Spikes 4-12in., often branched ; rachis of the spike pubescent or glandular. Flowers white, scentless, regular, bisexual, in long spike-like racemes, the rachis glandular, striate. Bracts and bracteoles persistent, leafy, shorter than the Calyx. Calyx inferior, free, i-Jin. by j^ia., persistent, narrowly tubular or spindle-shaped ; 5-10 ribbed, often hyaline between the ribs, mouth frequently funnel-shaped, scarious ; segments five, with membranous margins, covered with short, large, stalked, spreading, globose, crimson glands ; teeth very short. Corolla inferior, persistent, tubular ; tube lin., slender ; lobes 5, spreading, nearly Jin. long, oval ovate or ovoid, acute. Stamens

5, free, hypogynous, opposite the petals ; filaments free, as long-  
 as the Corolla- tube, linear, dilated at base ; anthers protruded,  
 2-celled. Ovary superior, 1-celled, 5-angular, narrowed at apex.  
 Style simple filiform, divided into 5 stigmatose branches, nearly  
 throughout the length. Stigmas 5, capillary and quite distinct.  
 Ovule solitary. Capsule membranous, oblong, sharply pointed,  
 included within the persistent Calyx and Corolla ; pericarp  
 thickened above. Dehiscence circumsciss near the base. Seed  
 cylindrical or oblong rotund.

#### N. 0. PLUMBAGINAE. 737

Uses : — "The root of *P. zeylanica* is said to increase the  
 digestive power [**Pankaj Oudhia's Comment:** *With so many harmful effects if not used judiciously.*], to promote the appetite, and to be useful in  
 dyspepsia, piles [**Pankaj Oudhia's Comment:** *Very promising in treatment of Piles. I have documented information about over 28000 Herbal Formulations in which Plumbago plays vital role. These Formulations are used for Piles.*] anasarca, diarrhoea, skin diseases [**Pankaj Oudhia's Comment:** *In treatment of skin diseases from common itch to Lichenoid Dermatitis the Traditional Healers use Plumbago plant parts with different herbs in form of complex herbal formulations. I have collected information about over 150,000 Formulations so far.*] , &c." (Hindu  
 Mat. Med.). " A tincture of the root-bark has been employed as  
 an antiperiodic. Dr. Oswald says that he has employed it in  
 the treatment of intermittents with good effect. It acts as a

powerful sudorific." (Pharm. Ind., p. 1701.)

<iframe src="https://archive.org/embed/PankajOudhiaPlumbagoOverdose" width="640" height="480" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen="true" mozallowfullscreen="true" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Mahomedan writers describe it as caustic and vesicant, an

expellant of phlegmatic humors ; useful in rheumatism [Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *In treatment of rheumatism and related troubles Plumbago based Formulations are used in different forms in different parts of India. I have collected information about 200,000 Formulations in which it is added as primary, secondary, tertiary to nonary ingredients.*] and

spleen, digestive ; it also causes abortion. For external administration, it is made into a paste with milk, vinegar or salt and water. Such a paste may be applied externally in leprosy and other skin diseases of an obstinate character, and be allowed to remain until a blister has formed

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In the Concan, the following formula is used : — Chitrak root, Emblic myrobalans, small black myrobalans (Bahhartaki), long pepper, pepper root, rhubarb and rock salt. Powder and give 6 massas with hot water every night at bed time, in flatu-

lence with rheumatic pains (Dymock).

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Taylor comments on its sialogogue properties. The milky juice is used as an application to unhealthy ulcers and in cases of scabies. (Dr. Thornton in Watt's Dictionary.)

[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *Please see Tables Plumbago-1 to Plumbago-300 for exhaustive information about this species.*]

## E-documents on Plumbago

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=earticleList&Author=oudhia&...>

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